



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Steven E. Shapiro
Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp, LLP
11377 West Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064

COPY MAILED

MAR 21 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of

Ram Benz

Application No. 09/775,389

Filed: February 1, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 35743-00001

**DECISION ON PETITION
TO WITHDRAW
FROM RECORD**

This is a decision on the Request to Withdraw as attorney or agent of record under 37 C.F.R. § 1.36(b), filed January 22, 2007.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

A grantable request to withdraw as attorney/agent of record must be signed by every attorney/agent seeking to withdraw or contain a clear indication that one attorney is signing on behalf of another/others. A request to withdraw will not be approved unless at least 30 (thirty) days would remain between the date of approval and the later of the expiration date of a time to file a response or the expiration date of the maximum time period which can be extended under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

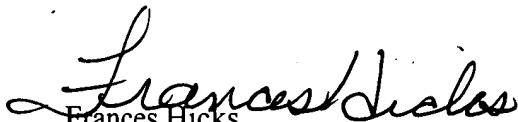
The Office cannot approve the request at this time since the reasons provided do not meet any of the conditions under the mandatory or permissive categories enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40. Section 10.40 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulation states, "[a] practitioner shall not withdraw from employment in a proceeding before the Office without permission from the Office[.]" More specifically, 37 CFR 10.40 states, "[i]f paragraph (b) of this section is not applicable, a practitioner may not request permission to withdraw in matter pending before the Office unless such request or such withdrawal is" for one the permissive reasons listed in 37 CFR 10.40(c). The reasons set forth in the request, "The patent application file has been returned to the Applicant for handling", does not meet any the conditions set forth in 37 CFR 10.40.

A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to applicant at the address noted in the petition.

All future communications from the Office will continue to be directed to the above-listed address until otherwise notified by applicant.

Applicant is advised that a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) setting a 30 day shortened statutory period was mailed March 1, 2007. Extensions of time are available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). Failure to timely reply within the period set will result in the abandonment of this application.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Kimberly Inabinet at 571-272- 4618.


Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Ram Benz
86-15 109th Street
Richmond Hill, NY 11418